

THE THIRD DAY.

7th January 1907.

The Assembly again met at 12 noon on Monday the 7th January 1907.

Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi (Vilavancode) who followed *Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai* pointed out that there were many needless items of expenditure for civil litigants in addition to copying fees and prayed that these might be abolished as far as possible.

Reply.—Many of the irregularities referred to by *Mr. C. Padmanabha Pillai* on Saturday evening are in the nature of general abuses incidental to the system, but wherever preventible Government and the High Court will endeavour to minimise the evils complained of. *Mr. Padmanabhan Tampi's* observations will also be borne in mind.

81. Abolition of court-fees for written statements and vakalaths in small cause cases.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur) suggested that the Court-fees Regulation might be amended so as to enable parties to put in vakalaths and written statements without undergoing any expenditure.

Reply.—The present law is contained in Articles 6(a) and 7 of Schedule II of the Court-fees Regulation (I of 1062) subject to clauses (a), (c) and (g) of section 12. No relief can be afforded in the matter of vakalaths. As regards written statements which are merely answers to some claim or demand, involving no prayer, it is desirable to bring the practice here into conformity with what obtains in British India, where after a Bombay High Court decision court-fees for written statements have been abolished. The feasibility of modifying the Court-fees Regulation in this respect will be considered.

82. Empowering Tahsildars or Deputy Tahsildars to dispose of small cause suits.

Mr. Varkey Oothuppu (Ettumanur) observed that proper attention was not paid to these suits by Munsiffs and it would be a convenience